AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A document management system for managing a plurality of registered documents in a database, each document having a number of sections, the system comprising:

a document association object linking a reference-source document to a referenced-material document in the database; and

a management unit generating property data of the document association object, the property data including a first identifier indicating a section of the reference-source document and a second identifier indicating a section of the referenced-material document, wherein the property data of the document association object is provided to recognize a particular relation that links the reference-source document section to the referenced-material document section.

2. (Original) The document management system according to claim 1, wherein the management unit is configured to generate the property data of the document association object, the property data including the first identifier, the second identifier, a third identifier indicating a version of the reference-source document and a fourth identifier indicating a version of the referenced-material document, and

wherein the property data of the document association object is provided to recognize a particular relation that links the reference-source document version and section to the referenced-material document version and section.

3. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented document management method for managing a plurality of registered documents in a database, each document having a number of sections, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a document association object linking a reference-source document to a referenced-material document in the database; and

generating property data of the document association object, the property data including a first identifier indicating a section of the reference-source document, a second identifier indicating a section of the referenced-material document, a third identifier indicating a version of the reference-source document and a fourth identifier indicating a version of the referenced-material document,

wherein the property data of the document association object is provided to recognize a particular relation that links the reference-source document version and section to the referenced-material document version and section.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~document management~~ method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

detecting that a relevant document linked to the document association object is renewed to change a previous version of the relevant document to a new version; and

updating the property data of the document association object so that one of the reference-source document version and the referenced-material document version is renewed so as to match the new version of the relevant document.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~document management~~ method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

detecting that a section of a relevant document linked to the document association object is detected; and

deleting the document association object including the property data.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing program code causing a processor to perform a document management method for

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managing a plurality of registered documents in a database, each document having a number of sections, the method comprising:

providing a document association object linking a reference-source document to a referenced-material document in the database; and

generating property data of the document association object, the property data including a first identifier indicating a section of the reference-source document and a second identifier indicating a section of the referenced-material document,

wherein the property data of the document association object is provided to recognize a particular relation that links the reference-source document section to the referenced-material document section.

7. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 6, wherein the property data of the document association object is generated to include the first identifier, the second identifier, a third identifier indicating a version of the reference-source document and a fourth identifier indicating a version of the referenced-material document,

wherein the property data of the document association object is provided to recognize a particular relation that links the reference-source document version and section to the referenced-material document version and section.

8. (Original) The computer-readable storage medium according to claim 7, wherein the method further comprises updating, when a relevant document, linked to the document association object, is renewed to change a previous version of the relevant document to a new version, the property data of the document association object so that one of the reference-source document version and the referenced-material document version is renewed so as to match the new version of the relevant document.

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